

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1218

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative Larry Turner of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the sudden passing of our friend and colleague Larry Turner, who proudly and ably served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1984 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, a member of the 94<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, 96<sup>th</sup>, 97<sup>th</sup>, 98<sup>th</sup>, 99<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup>, 103<sup>rd</sup>, 104<sup>th</sup>, 105<sup>th</sup>, and 106<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assemblies, Representative Larry Turner was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, especially his constituents in the 85<sup>th</sup> House District; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished businessman and state leader, Mr. Turner was the distinguished owner of Turner and Associates Realty Company in Memphis, Tennessee, and formerly served as Deputy Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Memphis, Larry Turner was wholly dedicated to Memphis and Shelby County, as a member of the Shelby County Democratic Voters Council, a member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP, and the Memphis in May Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, a member of the University of Tennessee Memphis Roundtable, Representative Turner was also a member of the Urban League, the Metro Memphis Development Board, and a former Assistant Treasurer of the National Business League; and

WHEREAS, Representative Larry Turner was a strong voice for children, having served as president of the Foster Care/Adoptions Task Force and lent his time and talents to the Leath Street Day Care Center; and

WHEREAS, humbly offering himself as a candidate to serve the good people of Memphis and Shelby County, Larry Turner won election to the House of Representatives in 1984, with a resounding vote, and would go on to win re-election eleven times, serving for nearly a quarter-century; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Turner served for many years as the vice-chair of the Consumer & Labor Affairs Committee, chair of the Employee Affairs Subcommittee, secretary of the Education Committee, and as a key member of the K-12 Subcommittee, the Transportation Committee, and Calendar and Rules Committee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Representative Turner was honored by a number of organizations during his legislative career, including the Memphis Education Association, the Tennessee Housing Industry Conference, and the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a recipient of the "Good Guy Award for Government" from the Memphis Political Caucus, Larry Turner was a man of courage and conviction, swayed by none but his own beliefs, he stood firm in his commitment to vote not for what was popular but always to vote for what he thought was the right thing to do; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Mr. Turner is survived by his beloved wife, Johnnie Turner; his son, Larry R. Turner, his father and stepmother, Robert Lee and Pearl Turner; six sisters, Shirley Brown, Kellye Braswell, Joyce Glaspie, Bernice Turner, Phaedra Turner, and Rosalind Ford; two brothers, Tommie L. Brown and Alvin Williams, and four grandchildren as well as a host of extended family members and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and deeply admired by his many friends and colleagues, Representative Larry Turner was a kind and thoughtful gentleman who loved Tennessee and took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all; his unmatched record in public service and business stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Larry Turner leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Representative Larry Turner, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Representative Turner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.